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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 30 April 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the enclosed statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement of the Federal Government

At the meeting of the Federal Government chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Radoje Kontic, information on the position of the Contact Group, adopted yesterday in Rome, was considered.

It was assessed that the position essentially demonstrated the continuation of the policies of pressure, interference in the internal affairs of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and encouraging separatism and terrorism. Such efforts are contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Act of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the goals of peace and stability in the region.

It is surprising that the responsibility for the lack of dialogue in Kosovo and Metohija has once again been placed on the Government of the Republic of Serbia, although it is obvious that the representatives of the political parties of the Albanian minority postpone the acceptance of unconditional dialogue, the abandoning of separatist programmes and the condemnation of terrorism.

The Government has assessed that only through dialogue and by political means can all questions related to the equality of all citizens in Kosovo and Metohija be resolved, and that separatism and terrorism deserve to be unequivocally and publicly condemned and isolated by all international factors, including the countries at the Rome meeting. In that respect, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia reaffirmed its full support for the initiatives and platform of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, which contains all the elements for a meaningful political dialogue.

The Government noted that efforts to resort to sanctions and pressure to exacerbate the conditions for the normal social and economic development of our country are unfounded and counter-productive, particularly inasmuch as they impede the reform process, modernization of the economy and regional integration, important preconditions for the prosperity of the entire region and the consolidation of peace and stability.

The Government has assessed that the Yugoslav Army, in accordance with its constitutional and legal role, performs its duty of protecting the inviolability of the State's borders and the border area and of preventing the infiltration of terrorist groups and arms shipments, including other equipment for their needs.

The Government has reaffirmed on this occasion its readiness to cooperate with other countries and international organizations on an equal and principled basis. In that regard, there is also full readiness and openness for cooperation with OSCE and other international organizations and institutions after the restoration of the membership rights of our country in those organizations and institutions.